

Dear CT Legislator,

I am a Elementary teacher at Strong School in Southington. I am writing to explain the impact the new teacher evaluation system and Common Core have had on me and my teaching. We were never properly trained for the Common Core. Teachers, Students and Parents are stressed with these new standards. The expectations are way too rigorous for the students. The parents don't understand them and don't know how to help their kids. Anxiety levels for teachers and kids are at an all time high. Students hate school and don't want to come. This so so sad! Teachers are beginning to hate their profession. This too is sad.

As for the evaluation system, I am forced to collect a great deal of really meaningless data on my students. It doesn't really help them learn more (actually, they learn less because I must teach to tests and have them take more and more tests and assessments to gather more and more data...they are over tested and caring less, and not learning more) It's all about paperwork and data collection. This is not improving teaching and learning.

Please consider changing the current legislature in both of these areas.

Thank you,

Melissa O'Neil

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